Guns,

9 HELD IN

Nine persons today faced federal charges and a 10th was being sought in Mexico in a plot which U.S. officials say was aimed at overthrowing the Cuban government.

Federal agents here said the plot involved a munitions smuggling ring and nearly seven tons of plastic explosives seized in a weekend Shreveport raid.

Although U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinghouse would not say precisely that the overthrow plot involved Cuba, he said there was "no reason to believe that the munitions were destined for any country other than Cuba."

CHARGED WITH conspiring to smuggle the explosives to Mexico for future shipment to a third country were:

Murray Kessler, Brooklyn, New York.

Adler B. Seal, Baton Rouge.

James M. Miller Jr., Baton Rouge.

Joseph Mazzuka, Baton Rouge.

Arthur Henry Lussier, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Antonio Maldonado, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Juan Martinez, Vera Cruz.

AGENTS SAID a warrant seeking the arrest of Francisco "Paco" Flores of Piedras Negras, Mexico, on the conspiracy charge has been issued.

The complaint charges that Kessler and Seal "knew and believed that the material would be used in an attempted overthrow of a foreign nation."

The government contends that the nine were dealing with a man known as "Carlos Dias" to purchase as much as $1.2 million in munitions and weapons, ranging from submachine guns to M-16s.

No guns, however, were found aboard the DC-4 transport plane seized Saturday in Shreveport by federal agents.

THE COMPLAINT alleges that Kessler agreed last Wednesday to sell to Diaz 13,500 pounds of the plastic explosive C-4, 7,000 feet of primacord, 2,600 electrical blasting caps and 25 electrical detonators, for a total of $430,000.

In addition, it claims that another $35,000 was to be paid for flying the explosives to an airfield near Vera Cruz, Mexico. However, no money changed hands, officials said.

Kessler took Diaz from New York to a Port Newark, N.J., warehouse May 31, where Diaz showed two letters of credit, the government said.

A rental aircraft was flown that afternoon from Hammond to Shreveport, according to the government.

A RENTAL VAN then went to the South Western Pipe Co. in Shreveport

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Explosives Involved

ANTI-CASTRO PLOT

9 Held in Weapons Plot

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and picked up the 13,500 pounds of plastic explosives.

"The explosive was then transported back to the site where the DC4 aircraft was being kept, and, as per agreement, was loaded into the aircraft. It was then that the federal agents moved in," officials said.

Miller, Luussier, Mazzuka, Maldonado and Martinez were arrested in Shreveport. Kessler and Seal were arrested later near New Orleans International Airport.

THE STATES-ITEM

Monday, July 3, 1972 New Orleans, La. 10 Cents